

T I M B E R T A L K

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EDITORIAL OFFICE: CAWMC - P. O. BOX 48 - STN. 'M', CALGARY, ALBERTA T2P 2G9 CANADA

DUES: Dues in the Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors is \$7.50 per calendar year. Payment in Canadian funds (or equivalent), payable to CAWMC, should be mailed to our Membership Chairman: Don Robb, P. O. Box 724, Waterloo, Ontario N2J 4C2 Canada. Members joining now will be credited with membership until Dec. 31, 1985.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: R-355 - Donald A. Bahuaud
Box 733
Delorraine, Manitoba ROM 0MO

FREE WOOD OF THE MONTH: We are again happy to be able to send out two wood this month. These were received some time ago so it's about time the members received them. The one pictured on the left below were donated by CAWMC Member Edward Heilman of Box 87, Maymont, Saskatchewan S0M 1T0. You will note that it is an error wood, with the word "collectables" spelled "colletables." The wood on the right is the correct version. Ed advises that collectors who want additional error woods, or the correct version can order them from him for 25¢ each plus SASE.



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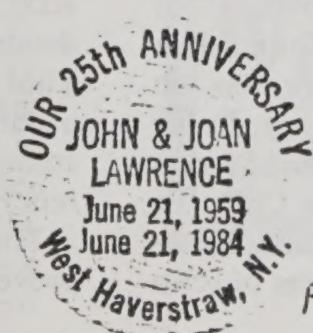
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The second donated wood is from one of our American collector friends, John Lawrence of 25 N. Wayne Avenue, West Haverstraw, New York, U. S. A. 10993. John is also involved in the New York State Wooden Money Society (NYSWMS). Membership information will gladly be sent by John to those interested. It's another good wood club. (Pictured below.)

CHRISTMAS WOOD: I have just been advised that our friend Frank J. DeGilio of 32 Oakwood Blvd., Poughkeepsie, New York, USA 12603 will make a maximum of 25 orders of his beautiful flat balsa wooden Christmas cards. Unfortunately his health will not permit him to make more. As most of you know Frank has printed all my issues of Christmas woods and they make a nice collection by themselves.

FEATURE ARTICLE: A couple of issues ago I asked what Boys Town, Nebraska and wood had in common. On the following 3 pages we learn the answer, thanks to fellow CAWMC member Don Thibodeau. Although reference is made to American wood, it really tells how modern wood came into use as wooden nickels and then goes on to speak of different types of wooden nickels. Thanks Don.



PURPLE





BOYS TOWN PMC Quarterly

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Boys Town, Nebraska 68010

July 1984

WOODEN MONEY

How many times have you heard the expression "Don't take any wooden nickels"? The PhilaMatic Center welcomes all wooden nickels that are offered. We have a collection of wooden money currently on display and probably the first thing an individual notices is that not all wooden nickels are wood nor are they all nickels. What is the story behind wooden money?

ONCE LEGAL TENDER

From the reign of Henry I (1100-1135) down to the establishment of the Bank of England in 1694 the legal tender money of England was fabricated out of wood. It consisted of one half of a four sided rod or staff. The sum it represented was written in ink on two opposite sides. The staff was then split in two longitudinally. One half, called the tally or check was given to the person for whose service it was intended; the other half was placed in a safe until the first half was brought in by the person who had last given value for it. The staff was a current token of real money, and served actually to distribute it from man to man by this exchange.

Our word "bill" was no doubt obtained from the Norman French word, bille, which means a staff. Officers of the army who were

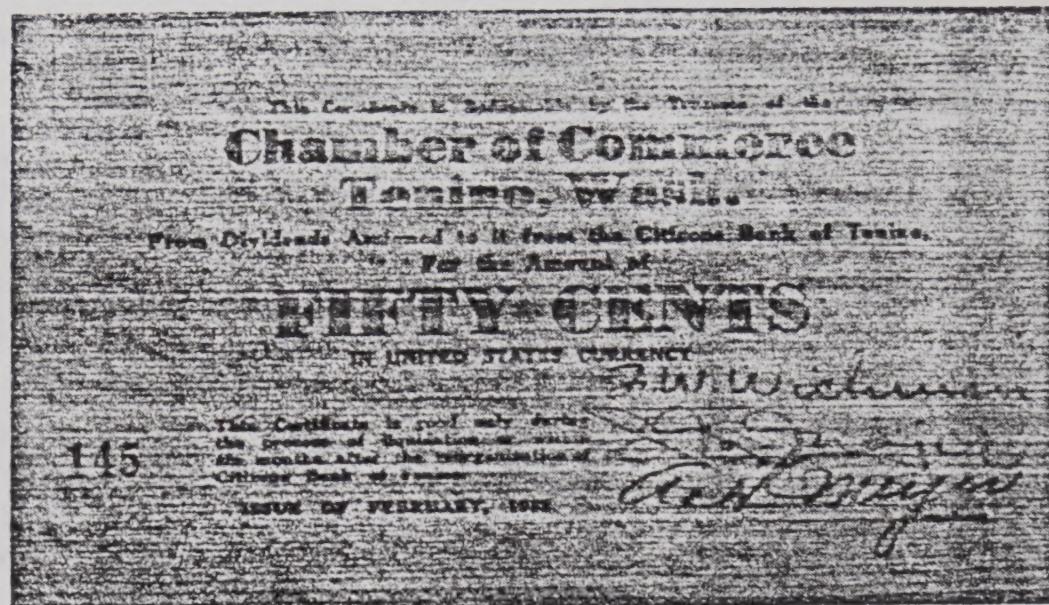


Fig. 1. Tenino Wooden Money

taken into the king's own pay were said to be put on the staff, that is, they were paid with a tally, or wooden money. To this day the military is said to be "billed" because they formerly gave wooden "billes" or tallies to the person with whom they were quartered.

EMERGENCY MONEY

During the "bank holidays" of 1931 many depositors found their assets frozen and there was an acute shortage of currency. In the emergency a very unique scrip plan was devised by the Chamber of Commerce of Tenino, Washington. They issued pieces of scrip

made from slices of Sitka spruce as a demonstration of a local industry. (Fig. 1)

The sheets of paper-thin wood were reinforced with paper between the sheets and proved quite serviceable as currency. The Chamber of Commerce agreed to accept assignments of up to 25% of the deposits of individuals in the town's closed bank and to issue them scrip in return. The Chamber promised to redeem the scrip upon the payment of dividends which had been assigned. Thus the depositors had the use of a portion of their money and the community had an additional currency system.

The issue of this wooden money proved to be quite a profitable

business transaction due to the fact that comparatively little of it was presented for redemption, nearly all of the pieces being held by collectors. The end result was that with the profit, the Chamber of Commerce bought the building and fixtures of the defunct Citizens Bank and paid the depositors more than a twenty per cent dividend.

COMMEMORATIVE PIECES

The more common forms of wooden money are commemorative pieces issued to advertise some local event and sold to the public as souvenirs to help defray the cost of the celebration. For instance, in 1933 the Chamber of Commerce at Longview, Wash., issued a wooden 25-cent piece commemorating the visit of the U.S. Frigate "Constitution" to Longview. These quarters were the size of a 50-cent piece and had milled edges. These coins were accepted by all the local merchants as cash (if the public wanted to redeem them) from August 1 to October 17, 1933. These coins were backed by money derived from their sale and the funds deposited in one of the local banks. Needless to say, very few were redeemed.

DIFFERENT VALUES AND SHAPES

As mentioned above, not all "wooden nickels" are 5-cent pieces. They come in all different values and in a wide variety of shapes and sizes. The quarter issued by the Monticello, N.Y. Chamber of Commerce measures $\frac{1}{4}$ "", while the wooden nickel issued in Piqua, Ohio in 1938 is octagon shaped. Humboldt, Nebraska issued a rectangular wooden "nickle" in 1938. Among differing values are a $7\frac{1}{2}$ -cent wooden nickel and 5 wooden

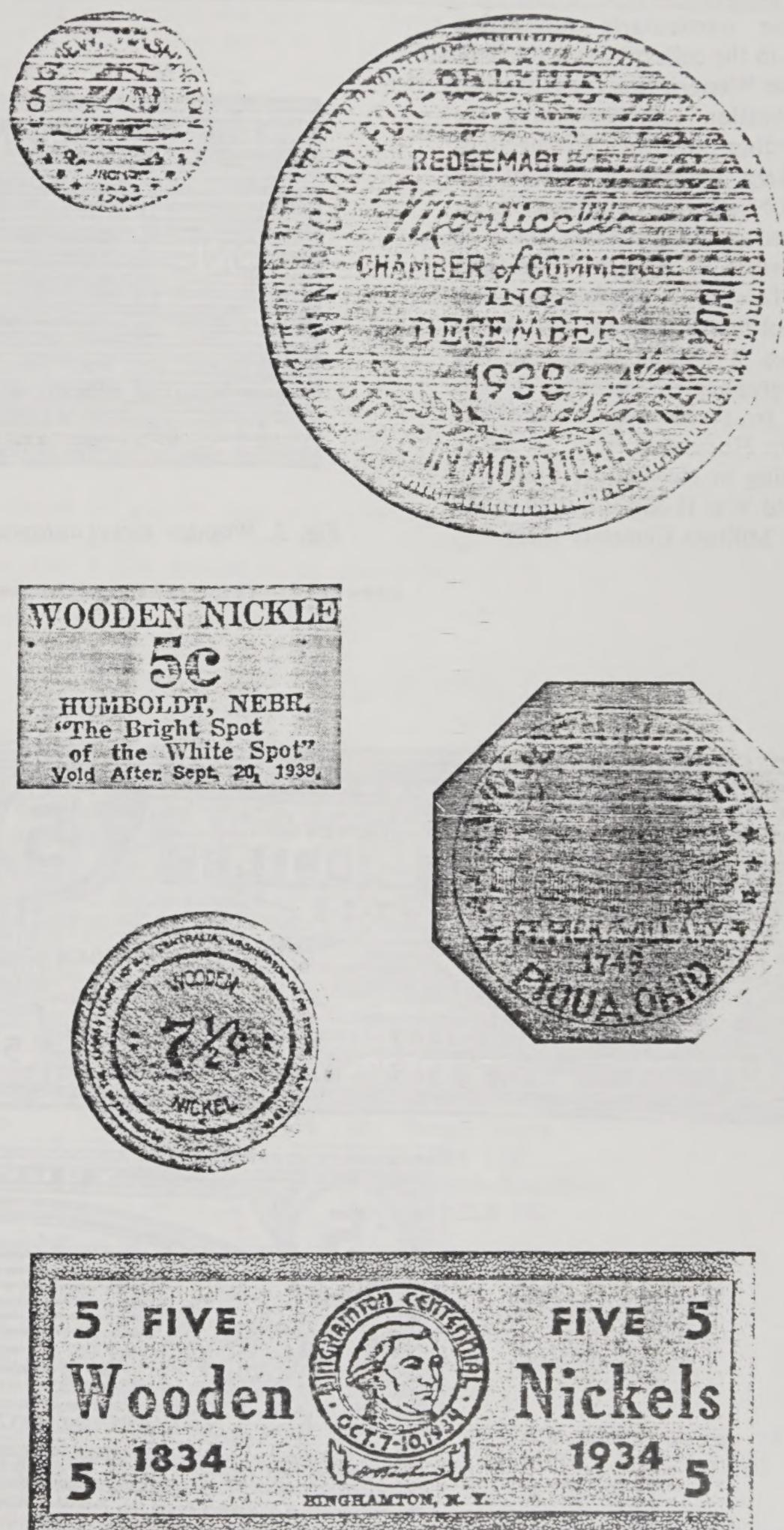


Fig. 2. Varieties of wooden money

One particularly interesting item in the collection is a souvenir of the Western Reserve Historical Celebration commemorating the founding of the Connecticut Western Reserve, a part of the great Northwest Territory (Fig. 3). It was exchangeable in trade at any store in Warren, Ohio, and the face of it depicts the first school house built in 1801. What makes it unique is that it was autographed by Theodore Roosevelt, Jr., then a colonel in the U.S. Army. He subsequently died in the fighting in Normandy, France in World War II and is buried in the U.S. Military Cemetery there.

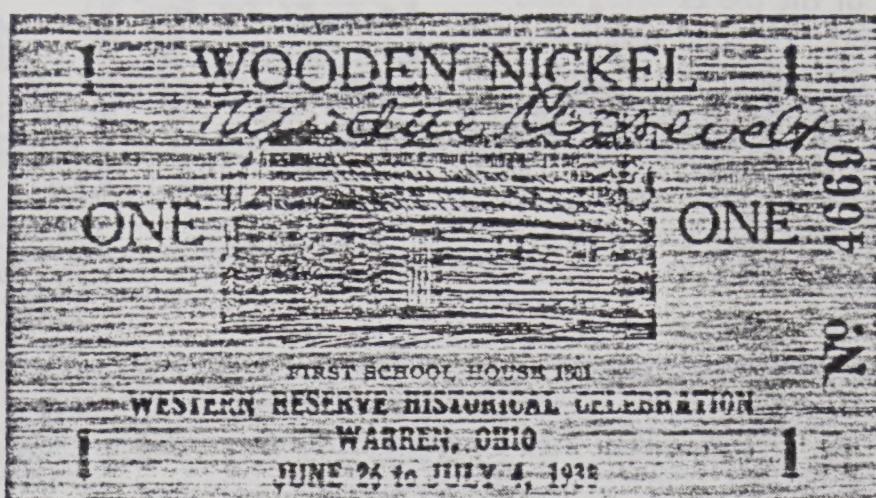


Fig. 3. Wooden nickel autographed by Theodore Roosevelt Jr.



AFTER CAREFULLY REVIEWING NORM WELLS' CATALOGUE, NORM BELSTEN REPORTS THE FOLLOWING:

The following are a list of additions and deletions from the previous books by Norm Wells. There are several # changes that owners of the old books should be made aware of, along with several # that have been left out or deleted.

"2200-1a and 1b were changed to #2000-1a and -b in sup #2 then # 2000-4a was changed to 2000-3 and 2000-4b to 2000-4 in the new book.

#2000-2 in sup #2 was changed to 2000-3 in sup #3 then back to 2000-2 in new book.

#2200-2 in sup 3 was changed to 2200-3 in sup 4 and new book.

#2450-21 in sup 4 is deleted from new book.

#3350-8 had 3350-8b added in sup #1 it has been delisted in new book.

#4620-7a and 7b cancelled and listed under USC-1a and 1b new book.

#5500-10 had 5500-10b added in sup 1 but delisted in new book.

#5610-4 had 5610-4b added in sup #1 but delisted in new book.

#5670-5 in second edition green book not listed in new book.

#5715-4c was added in sup 3 but delisted in new book

#5888-1b and 5888-2 are the same wood.

#5900-17e added in sup 1 delisted in new book

#5900-21b added in sup 1 delisted in new book

#5900-31a 31b 31c 31d all now listed under CVS woods

#5900-35c added in sup 1 not in new book

#5900-37c added in sup 1 not in new book

#5900-39a 39b 39c listed under GAVCA woods

#5950-5c added in sup 3 not in new book

#7530-19 a & b added in sup 3 not listed in new book

#8700-7c added in sup 3 not in new book

#8720-1a 1b 1c from 2nd edition green book not in new book

#9625-7 now listed as 9635-8 in new book

#9800-37-1 not listed in new book

#9850-12 now listed as 4d in new book

#9850-15 now listed as 4e in new book

Thanks Norm.

NEW MEMBERS (Last reported in September Timber Talk.):

R-365 Mr. Thomas W. Freamo
P. O. Box 502
Arnprior, Ontario K7S 3L9

R-366 Mr. Serge Huard
P. O. Box 402
Pointe-aux-Trembles
Quebec H1B 5K3

Now that Serge has joined maybe we will get an article in French?

ARTICLES: We are always looking for articles from members to publish in Timber Talk. They don't have to be typed, nor in any particular literary style. They will be edited and published as space permits - and we do have a lot of space. Why not share some aspect of your hobby with other collectors?

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS: Wanted, For Sale, and For Trade ads are printed free of charge to members (and that includes you dealers out there). Ads must be oriented to wood and are printed as space permits at the discretion of the Editor.

NEW WOODS: Either there have not been many new issues lately, or no one is passing the word along.

OLD VIC REOPENED: by Geoff Bell with thanks to the Atlantic Numismatist July/August 1984 issue:



OLD VIC REOPENED

- BY GEOFF. BELL

With 1984 being New Brunswick's Bicentennial year, community groups throughout the province are celebrating in their own way with the help of special local or provincial funding. School Dist. 15, the English-speaking school district based in Moncton, undertook a most interesting project. The district, consisting of 30 schools and approximately 13,500 students, decided to reopen the Victoria School, a 94 year old three storey brick building, for a two week period in May.

Theme exhibits were constructed in each of the 10 classrooms and concerts were presented during the evening in the filled-to-capacity auditorium. The exhibits included an old fashioned general store, an art room, a Victorian parlor, an old-new business education room, an old-new kitchen, an old-new manual training room, a Victorian classroom, a sports room featuring the old and new, and a display by the provincial teachers' association.

All school children from District 15 were bussed to the nearby Edith Cavell school yard where they boarded a wagon hauled by a team of horses and were taken to the school. While at Victoria School they got an ice-cream cone for 10¢ and each one received a souvenir script especially produced for the event.

It would not be difficult to comprehend why such an idea was conceived with Geoff Bell and Ray Maybee as co-chairman of the project.

Ray Maybee also issued a wooden nickel (as pictured above) which were given to dignitaries and committee members. None are currently available to collectors.

Ed Note: This wood just happens to be on my 'Want List.' Does anyone have a spare????

DON'T FORGET TICF: As printed on Page 1 of last month's issue of Timber Talk, the Southern Ontario Chapter of the CAWMC will hold a meeting in the Board Room of the Lakeshore Inn (in Toronto) on Saturday November 10, 1984 at 3:30 PM. The meeting will not conflict with the Banquet extravaganza promised by John Regitko, and hopefully will not conflict with the CNA Executive Meeting. These are always fun meetings, so plan to attend. See you there.

CHAPTER MEETINGS: There are three Chapters of CAWMC, one in the Maritimes, one in Ontario, and one in Alberta. When local meetings are held, please send an article to Timber Talk. In that way all collectors can see what each group is doing.

WOOD EXHIBITS: Because of our enthusiasm, a number of coin clubs now have a category for wood. In other cases exhibits of wood win awards. Why not share the results with all the members? Drop a line to the Editor with the particulars.

If I keep this up long enough, this last page will be full! On the serious side, Timber Talk is YOUR newsletter. The more contributions from members, the better it should be. There are about 75 pages in Timber Talk each year. I won't get into how many words and illustrations appear. This is another way of saying that your contribution will be appreciated. Okay?

That's all for this month, see you at TICF on November 10th, and here next month.